

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11151 071722Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 L-03 H-01 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7108
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 11151

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINS, EAID, CG, FR, BR
SUBJECT; BELGIAN CABINET DECISIONS ON ZAIRE

1. BELGIAN CABINET MET JUNE 7 ON ZAIRE AND REVIEWED
RESULTS OF JUNE 5 PARIS MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTER'S
DEPUTY CHEF DU CABINET, ANDRE ONKELINX HAS TOLD US THAT
FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE MADE:

A. CABINET APPROVED PARIS MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT
SPECIFIC REFORM PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED JOINTLY TO
PRESIDENT MOBUTU. ONKELINX SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERN-
MENT PREFERS A COLLECTIVE DEMARCHE IN KINSHASA TO
PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HE SAID BELGIUM PREFERRED THAT THERE
BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE PARIS FIVE'S JOINT DEMARCHE.
ONKELINX SAID THAT THE REASON THE CABINET WANTS A JOINT
DEMARCHE IS THAT BELGIUM WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT MOBUTU

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 11151 071722Z

GETS THE SAME MESSAGE FROM ALL. HE SAID BELGIUM PROPOSES
THAT EXPERTS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE FIVE GET
TOGETHER AND WORK OUT A COMMON TEXT. FOR THAT REASON, HE
SAID, IT APPEARED AS IF THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME TO
MAKE THE APPROACH TO MOBUTU BEFORE THE JUNE 13-14
BRUSSELS MEETING.

B. ONKELINX SAID THAT THE CABINET DECIDED ON THE "GRADUAL PROGRESSIVE WITHDRAWAL" OF BELGIAN PARATROOPERS IN ZAIRE OVER AN APPROXIMATE 15-DAY PERIOD COORDINATED WITH THE GRADUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTRA-AFRICAN FORCES THERE. ONKELINX STATED THAT THE CABINET LEFT VAGUE WHEN THE 15-DAY PERIOD WOULD BEGIN, STRESSING BELGIAN KEY CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF SHABA.

C. ONKELINX SAID THE CABINET, IN RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S PARIS REQUEST, HAS DECIDED THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOME OF THE AFRICAN FORCES GOING TO SHABA.

D. ONKELINX SAID THAT THE CABINET FOUND THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP A PERMANENT WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF CONTINUING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA "A GOOD IDEA." ONKELINX SAID THAT CHEF DU CABINET CAHEN HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO TELEPHONE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN JUNE 7 TO ASK HIM TO RECONSIDER THE UK'S OPPOSITION TO THIS PROPOSAL. CHAMBERS.

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